

Service Date: December 29, 1999

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE REGULATION
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

* * * * *

IN THE MATTER OF The Application of Cut)	UTILITY DIVISION
Bank Gas Company for Authority to Increase)	
Charges for Natural Gas Service)	DOCKET NO. D99.12.256
)	INTERIM ORDER NO. 6214
)	

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Cut Bank Gas Company (Applicant) applied to this Commission for an order authorizing an increase in the rates Applicant charges for natural gas service. The application sought authority to increase rates in order to reflect all cost increases resulting from Montana Power Company's (MPC) Docket No. D99.11.247.
2. On December 9, 1999, the Commission Order No. 6213 granted MPC an interim natural gas rate increase.
3. Order No. 6213 will result in higher purchased gas costs to Applicant.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Applicant is a "public utility" within the meaning of Section 69-3-101, MCA.
2. The Montana Public Service Commission properly exercises jurisdiction over the Applicant's Montana operations pursuant to Title 69, Chapter 3, MCA.
3. Section 69-3-304, MCA, provides in part, "The Commission may, in its discretion, temporarily approve increases or decreases pending a hearing or final decision."
4. The rate levels and spread approved herein are reasonable. The rebate provisions of Section 69-3-304, MCA, protect ratepayers in the event that any revenue authorized by this order are found to be unjustified in the final order in this Docket.

ORDER

1. Applicant is hereby granted interim relief reflecting Findings of Fact in this order.
2. Such relief is to become effective for services rendered on and after December 10, 1999, and remain in effect until such time as a final decision is reached in this matter.
3. The rates shall be collected upon a constant uniform cents per Mcf basis.
4. Interim revenues granted herein are subject to rebate should the final order in this Docket disapprove this interim revenue.

DONE IN WORK SESSION at Helena, Montana, this 9th day of December by a 4-0 vote.

BY ORDER OF THE MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

DAVE FISHER, Chairman

NANCY MCCAFFREE, Vice Chair

BOB ANDERSON, Commissioner

GARY FELAND, Commissioner

BOB ROWE, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Kathy Anderson
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)